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1701

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VIEW
OF
PARIS

A
VIEW
OF
PARIS.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM

PARIS

A
VIEW
OF
PARIS,
AND
Places adjoining.

WITH
An Account of the Court of FRANCE,
and of the late King JAMES.

To which is Added,
The present Posture of Affairs in that
Kingdom, Discovering an Insuffi-
ciency in the *French* to maintain a
War.

Written by a Gentleman lately Residing at
the *English* Ambassador's at *Paris*.

LONDON:
Printed for John Nutt, near Stationers-Hall,
1701.

A
VIEW

OF

PARIS

Places adjoining

WITH

An Account of the Court of France
and of the French People

By

The present State of Affairs in the
Kingdom, discovered in a
clear and distinct manner in a
War.

Written by a Gentleman lately Resident at
the Court of France.

LONDON:

Printed for J. DODD, in Pall-mall.

1751.

T O

Richard Syms, *Esq;*

S I R,

THE General Business
of a Dedication is
not unlike the Choice
of a Patron, for the Vir-
tues the Author gives him,
are as ill Apply'd as the
Work; to the States-man,
some Address, Love and
Poetry; to the Prelate, War;

A 3

to

The Dedication.

*to the Soldier, Divinity;
and to the first they ascribe
Generosity, and Courage; to
the second Boldness; and to
the last Meekness, as if they
rather meant a Satyr than a
Panegyrick.*

*Such Preposterous Ad-
dresses have brought most
Authors, and their Encomi-
ums, into Disesteem, and
made Noble Minds, that
have, in all Times, been
fir'd with the Love of Glory,
and publick Applause, De-
spise from such Hands, the
just Praise they Covet.*

To

The Dedication.

To avoid the Fault, I
Condemn, when I design'd to
publish the following Account
of Paris, and of the French
Court, I first consider'd who
of my Acquaintance was the
best qualified for this Ad-
dress; I knew very well, it
was not every one that has
Travell'd: too many of them
go into Foreign Regions,
to gather their Trifles and
Follies, and to forget, nay
often to hate their own
Country; and few have ei-
ther the means, or the Ca-
pacity to make those Useful
Observations, that may be
Ser-

The Dedication.

Serviceable to their own Reputation, or their Country, and both these are Men, that by no means deserve the least Commendation. But when I reflected on your Discernment, your Love for your Country. Your ample Fortune, and Politeness, which Distinguish You wherever You are; and, besides, having had the favour of some of the following Remarks from you, both my Judgment and Gratitude did forcibly prompt me to this Address; wherein I have no other Aim than to own
to

The Dedication.

to the Publick, the Satisfaction I find in Subscribing my self,

SIR,

Your most Humble,

and Obedient Servant

THE

THE HISTORY

OF THE
CITY OF
NEW-YORK

FROM
1624 TO 1800

BY
JOHN B. HEATON

1817

THE CONTENTS.

	Page.
P assage from London to Roan,	1
Description of Roan	2
Description of St. Germain's,	4
Water-Works at Marli,	5
Arrival at Paris,	ibid
French Flattery	6
Their Vanity and Bigotry,	7
Equipages and Coaches,	ibid
Hackney-Coaches	8
Bells	ibid
Lawyer, Quacks, Sharpers, and Foot-	9
men.	ibid
Houses,	10
Streets,	10

Pights

The Contents.

<i>Pights, and Guet,</i>	11
<i>Places or Squares,</i>	12
<i>Rivers</i>	14
<i>Bridges,</i>	15
<i>Courts la Reine,</i>	ibid
<i>Walks, Tulleries,</i>	ibid
<i>French-Men how known,</i>	16
<i>French Civility,</i>	17
<i>French Foppery,</i>	18
<i>Petits Maitrès,</i>	ibid
<i>Abbez,</i>	ibid
<i>Women,</i>	ibid
<i>Extravagance and Luxury of the French,</i>	21
<i>Brokers,</i>	22
<i>Cabarets and Wines,</i>	ibid
<i>Ordinaries, Eating and Lodgings,</i>	23
<i>Beer Brew'd in Paris,</i>	24
<i>Coffee-Houses,</i>	ibid
<i>Foaire St. Germain's,</i>	25
<i>Weather,</i>	26
<i>The Opera,</i>	27
<i>The Comedy,</i>	29
<i>Musicians,</i>	30
<i>The Comedy how Govern'd,</i>	31
<i>Arts and Sciences, Poets, Painters,</i>	32
<i>Mathematicians, Philosophers, Divines, Physicians, Chyrurgions and Litera- ture,</i>	33
<i>The French Tongue,</i>	34
<i>Gaming</i>	

The Contents.

<i>Gaming,</i>	ibid
<i>The Palais,</i>	35
<i>Commissaires,</i>	36
<i>Beggars and Mendicant Friars,</i>	37
<i>Churches,</i>	39
<i>Religion,</i>	42
<i>Protestants in France,</i>	43
<i>Hospitals,</i>	44
<i>Processions,</i>	45
<i>Journey to St. Dennis,</i>	47
<i>Fair St. Laurent,</i>	50
<i>The Louvre, Academy of Painting and Statuary,</i>	51
<i>The Royal Academy,</i>	52
<i>The Kings Library,</i>	ibid
<i>The Verrerie or Glass-House</i>	53
<i>The Goblins,</i>	54
<i>Bigness of Paris,</i>	ibid
<i>Savoyards,</i>	55
<i>An Account of Versailles</i>	ibid
<i>Jacobites in Paris,</i>	60
<i>Journey to Fountainbleau,</i>	61
<i>An account of King James's Court,</i>	64, 65,
<i>An Account of the Royal Family of France,</i>	66
<i>Journey to Dunkirk,</i>	73
<i>The Government of France, and the present Posture of Affairs there,</i>	75
<i>Character of the King of France,</i>	77
<i>Riches</i>	

The Contents.

<i>Riches of France,</i>	58
<i>Revenue of the Clergy,</i>	ibid
<i>Revenue of the King,</i>	ibid

ERRATA.

PAge 6. Line 1. *Voyageru*, Read *Voyageur*. p. 7.
 l. 19. f. *Præteret*, r. *Præterea*. p. 16. l. 7. f.
Thenter, r. *Theatre*, p. 18. l. 2. f. *Who are Born*, r.
Who are not Born. p. 28. l. 15. f. *Prizes*, r. *Prices*.
 l. 21. f. *Stages*. r. *Stage*. p. 26. l. 13. dele one. p. 43.
 l. 10. f. *Mr.* r. *Mrs.* p. 55. l. 11. and 15. f. *Horses*,
 r. *Houses*. p. 59. l. 20. f. *show'd*, r. *show'd*. p. 61.
 l. 15. f. *Cubaret*, r. *Cabaret*. p. 64. l. 4. f. *Breast*, r.
Back.

A
V I E W
O F
P A R I S,

And Places adjoining, &c.

SIR,

THE Account of *France*, and particularly of *Paris*, which you desire of me, is a more difficult Task than perhaps you may imagine; however I will gladly undertake it, upon Condition that you will be as indulgent in perusing my weak Performance, as I am ready to comply with your desire. I will send you my Observations; in the same order I have set them down in my Table-Book; and be as familiar and sincere in my Relation, as I us'd to be in your Conversation.

B

On

On the 4th. day of July last Mr. L----- and I embark'd at Gravesend for Roan : We had scarce sail'd twenty Leagues into the Sea, when there arose so violent a Storm, that we look'd every minute to be cast away ; and I must freely tell you, I was not so insensible of the danger, but that I begun to curse my Travelling Curiosity, and wish my self safe on *English* Ground. However I was a Hero in comparison of L----- ; whose fear redoubling his Affection, made him embrace and kiss me, as if we had been already sinking together. A gentle Rain laid the boisterous Wind, and dispell'd our fears, and in three days sailing we safely landed at Roan.

R O A N.

The first thing I took notice of here was, the Remains of a Bridge built by the *English* ; and a fine Pest-House, for sick Persons out of the Town. A Capuchin Friar came on board our Vessel, and sprinkled us with Holy Water, expecting to receive a piece of *English* Beef, the usual Reward of his Benediction ; but the Master of the Ship being a true Pro-

Protestant, and looking upon it as a superstitious Ceremony, the *Capuchin* had nothing but his labour for his pains. We went ashore near a Nunnery, which had a large Garden with exceeding high Hedges neatly cut, and enclos'd by Walls thirty foot high. The *Capuchins* Garden is also very large, and adorn'd with a fine Fountain, and several Images of Shell-work of our Saviour and the Saints, as big as the Life. Upon the Key stands the Image of the Virgin *Mary*, dress'd up for Porters and Tarpaulins to worship, and cover'd with taudry Cloaths. All publick Buildings, and some private in *Rôan*, are built by the *English*. Among the rest, the *Chamber of Parliament* has a very fine Cieling, and a great Hall, but not so big as *Westminster's*. The Churches have great Statues *ad vivum* against the Pillars, some painted, others not. The *Course*, where People take the Air is very long, having two Foot-walks, a Horse or Coach-walk, and an Oval in the middle, with Seats. I was entertain'd in *Rôan* with two Sights I had never seen before ; the one was a *Procession* of all the Clergy, Religious Orders, Magistrates and People ; and the other,

ther, the Execution of a Man upon the Wheel. At the Proceſſion the Preſidents and Counſellors of Parliament walk in great ſtate, being each attended by 5 or 6 Lackeys, in rich Liveries, and having their Trains born up. *Roan* is a large City, not inferior to any other in *France*, except *Paris*, in Trade or Riches. Here are both a *Comedy* and *Opera*, which yield in nothing to thoſe in *Paris*. From *Roan* we went to *Paris*, partly by Water, partly on *Mazetes*, or Hackney-Tits. We went thro' *Pouffy*, which has a very fine, large Bridge; there we ſaw the King of *France*'s Hunting Attendance and Equipage, which was very noble and numerous. Before we came to *St. Germans*, we ſaw on the top of a Hill a ſtone Croſs erected, for having been the Place where the King of *France* firſt met the Queen *Jaquette*; (ſo they call in *France* King *James's* Queen.

St. GERMAINS.

St. Germans is a pretty large Town, with the Palace on one ſide, and both are ſeated on the edge of a Hill. The Palace is built Caſtlewiſe, but more neat;

neat; it has a Balcony guilt all round, but narrow; a dry Trench with Walks; a fine Garden with Firr cut into several Forms, and the Prospect of *St. Cloud*, *St. Dennis*, *Marly*, *Meudon*, and several other Places: In our way to *Paris* we went to view the Water-works at *Marly*, which are really prodigious; for by means of abundance of great Wheels and Pumps, which go continually, the Water is carried from the Foot of a Hill up to the Top, and from thence convey'd to *Versailles*. *Paris* is scarce seen before just upon it, and even then makes no Figure, lying in a bottom; but in recompence we had the Prospects of several Towns, and of abundance of Vineyards all the way, We past by a Castle built by *Francis I.* call'd *Madrid*, and several fine Country-houses. The first thing we saw before we came near *Paris*, was the guilded *Dome* of the *Invalides*.

Marly.

P A R I S.

Having enter'd this famous City, we were set down near the *Louvre*, and drop'd in first at a paltry House where the Fellow call'd himself in his

Sign *Le grand Voyageur*, (or great Traveller) and pretended to Speak all Languages, but could scarce speak his own. Finding here but indifferent Accommodation, our Man provided us a Lodging in a House, where liv'd no less than two and twenty Families ; thither we were carried in Sedans with Wheels, drag'd along by one Man, no Hackney-Coaches being then to be had. This was on a *Sunday*, and I was not a little surpriz'd to see Violins about the Streets, and People singing and dancing every where, as if they had been mad.

Strangers are very welcome in *Paris*, provided they bring a great deal of Money along with them : And indeed here are so many Occasions to spend it, that unless a Man have two Guardian Angels, one to keep his Desires within bounds, 'tother to manage his Purse, both his own Extravagance, and the subtle cringing Avarice of this Nation, will soon send him home with empty Pockets. All I have got for near Two Hundred Pounds I have spent here in Seven Months time, is a Qualification I never was acquainted with, I mean, *Flattery*. In *France* a Man must commend

Flattery.

mend every thing that is *French*, and extol the Grandeur of their King and Monarchy; their Politeness, and good Breeding; their Fashions, and manner of Eating and Drinking. Nay, he must applaud *Hypocrisy* and *Bigotry*, because they are so much countenanc'd from Above, that 'tis almost a capital Crime to speak against them. To comply with the Folly of the Nation, I have taken my Degrees in the School of *Complimenting*, and *begging Pardon*; such insignificant Words of Course being more common in *France*, than *Sighing* in *Italy*, or *Belching* in *Holland*. Promises, Tenders of Services, and Protestations of Friendship, are here of the nature of *Nightingals*; *Vox, vox, & præteret nihil*, a meer Sound, and no Substance.

EQUIPAGES.

Here are abundance of fine Equipages and Liveries to be seen; for not only the Nobles, and Men of great Estates, keep their Coaches, but also Gentlemen of indifferent Fortunes, Lawyers, Players, &c. it being the vain Humour of the *French*

Coaches.

Nation to chuse to starve their Families at home, to make a great Figure abroad.

Hackney-Coaches. The *Hackney-Coaches* are neither so many, so convenient, nor so fine as in *London*; but instead of 'em *Foreigners* make use of *Carrosses de Remise*, which are as genteel and neat as *Gentlemen's Coaches*, and which one may hire at the rate of *Thirty Lewis d'or per Month*. The *French Coachmen* are very *adroit*, and will turn in a very narrow compass; but they are much noisier than ours, and always keep their *Horses* upon the *Trot*; which makes it dangerous for *People* to walk about the *Streets of Paris*, because there are no *Posts* to keep off the *Coaches*.

Bells. The Ringing of *Bells* either for *Mass*, *Sermon*, *Vespers*, or *Mattins*, continually disturbs the *Tranquility* of the middle *Region* of the *Air*; and while they toll for the *Repose* of the *Dead*, they torment the *Living*, with their lamentable *Hurrican*.

If formerly an *Emperor* had the *Fancy* to judge of the *Extent* of *Rome*, by weighing all the *Cob-webs* which he caus'd to be gather'd within the compass of that great *City*; one might

might with more reason measure the Extent of *Paris* by the vast Numbers of Lawyers, Pockey-Doctors and Sharpers; which ought to caution Foreigners against Quarrelling, and going to Law. Intriguing with the Women of the Town, and playing at the Academies. The *Lackeys* and *Footmen* are also very numerous: They have a saying amongst them, that the *German* Servants are Companions, and the *English*, *Spanish* and *Italian* Slaves; but that the *French* Footmen only know how to command their Masters. Indeed their Insolence is so very great, that to put a stop to the daily disorders they committed, the King has forbid them, upon severe Penalties, to wear either Sword or Stick; however all Ambassadors Footmen are allow'd the latter.

Lawyers.
Quacks.
Sharpers.

Footmen.

H O U S E S.

The *Houses* in *Paris* seem generally to be built rather by Philosophers than Architects, being seven or eight Stories high, coarse and indifferent without, and nasty within. Instead of Wainscot, and boarded Floors, the Rooms are hung with Tapestry,
(some

(some of which are really very good) and pav'd with four and eight square Bricks. Yet it must be confess'd that the *Hôtels*, or Noble-men's Houses are truly Noble and Stately, having great *Portes Cocheres*, and Courts before them, and for the most part in-laid Floors; but which with frequent rubbing are made so slippery, that they seem rather contriv'd to Skate than Walk upon. I have not seen any Joiner's or Carver's Work comparable to ours in *England*; neither have I met with any Sash-Windows, (not even at *Versailles*) that play up and down by means of a hidden Pulley as ours; but when you open them, you must keep 'em up with a Pin.

STREETS.

The Streets are neither so broad, nor (by Reason of the height of the Houses) so light as ours in *London*; but then they are better pav'd, and kept cleaner. Yet let the Scavenger's care be never so great, there are so many Piss-pots and Sir-reverences flung out at some Windows in the Night-time, that a Man can hardly

go thro' any Street in a Morning, without offending his Nose. The Streets in *Paris* are also better Light-
 ed by Night, than in *London*, where our Convex-Lights both dazle the *Lights.*
 Sight, and endanger People's running against Posts; but here the Lights are enclos'd in fine smooth Glass Lanthorns, hung in the middle of the Street. But then again in the Day time, the Streets of *Paris* are Darkn'd by Linmen hung out Four or Five Pair of Stairs, upon Poles, fastned by Strings. The Streets are secur'd by Night, not by a Watch with a Lanthorn, as in *London*; but by a Guard of Soldiers, call'd *le Guet*, *Guet.*
 both Horse and Foot; the first sit snug in a corner, wrapt up in their Cloaks, and ready to start upon the least Squabble that happens; the Foot Soldiers are Distributed about in holes, and Walk their Rounds every Hour of the Night. Yet for all this, 'tis not safe being in the Streets at *Paris*, after Eleven of the Clock, for ne're a Day passes, but we have an account of some Body or other being either strip'd or Murder'd the Night before: The greatest Danger is on the *Pont-Neuf*, and by Convents and Nun-
 neries;

neries, where there are Dead-Walls.

Places or Squares.

Place Royale.

There are in *Paris*, but three Remarkable *Places* or *Squares*, viz. *la Place Royale*, *la Place des Victoires*, and *la Place de Vendôme*. The *Place Royale* is the finest of the three, tho' not quite so large as *Covent-Garden*; it is in *Ruë St. Antoine*, near the *Bastile*; all the Houses round it are fine *Hotels*, all Uniform, and Built upon great Arches; and in the middle of it is the *Equestrian Figure* of *Lewis XIII.* which is a very fine Piece.

Place des Victoires.

The *Place des Victoires*, is behind the *Palais Royal*, and is something bigger than one half of *Red-Lion-Square*; the Houses round it are both more Noble and Lofty than those of *Place Royale*, and in the middle of it, is a large Gilt Brass Figure of this King, Treading an *Hydra* under his Feet, with *Fame* Crowning him with Laurels, and four Nations in Chains, supporting the Pedestal. The Inscription of this Statue is, *VIRO IMMORTALI*; And the *Sun* being by the *French* accounted the Emblem

Emblem of their King, an *English*
Nobleman of my Acquaintance, has
Writ the following Verses, as an Iro-
nical Illusion to both.

On the King of France's Statue in Paris.

By a Person of Quality.

THe Sun is for the Vintage Bless'd,
And Harvest of this Year,
Tho' several Seasons have Confess'd,
He did in Vain appear.
How shall France bless her Glorious King,
Who since he fill the Throne,
Did Power and Riches Tearly Bring,
And never fail'd in One.

His Statue in His Paris must,
Th' Inconstant Sun Out-shine,
As He's to's People still more Just,
His Influence more Divine.
Let Fame the wondring World Acquaint,
At Home and All Abroad,
As the Ninth Lewis was a Saint,
The Fourteenth is a GOD.

The Place de Vendosme, is near the *Place de*
Porte St. Honnore; it was near as *Vendosme*,
big as Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, but the
King

King having Sold it to the Farmers of the Revenues, they are now pulling down the fine Arches that were round it, and drawing out Streets, which will reduce it to a narrow Compafs. In the middle of this Place has been lately Erected the Figure of the present King on Horse-back, an excellent Piece in the kind, cast by the famous Keyler, a German. Since the Erecting of this Figure, this place is call'd *Place des Conquêtes*.

*Now Place
des Conquêtes.*

*Maison de
Ville.*

In the *Maison de Ville*, or *Guild-Hall*, is a Statue of *Lewis XIV.* in Copper, very neatly cut. There's also a double Row of Inscriptions of this King's Actions, all round the Court; one of those Inscriptions Complements us with the Name of *Rebels*.

R I V E R.

The River *Seine* runs through *Paris*, a Rivulet in Comparison of the *Thames*; yet its Water, whether clear or Muddy, is Sold here about the Streets, as dear as Small-Beer in *London*; for the *French*, tho' an Ingenious Nation, have not yet found the

the way of Conveying Water into their Houses by Pipes.

BRIDGES.

There are in *Paris* 8 or 9 Bridges, *Pont-Neuf*. the most Remarkable of which, is the *Pont-Neuf*, more worthy of the City, than of the River; it is supported by 12 great Arches of Free-stone. On the middle of this Bridge is a Brass Figure of King *Henry* the IV. on Horse-back, Erected on a Magnificent Pedestal, and very finely Cast. From this Bridge is a very fine Prospect on the River, which terminates, (on the right side,) with *Cours la Reine*, a place like the Ring in *Hide-Park*. *Court la Reine.*

WALKS.

The most frequented Places for publick Walks are the Gardens of the *Tuilleries*, and *Luxemburg*. As they were design'd for the Reception and Entertainment of vast Multitudes of Gentlemen and Ladies, (the Mob and Footmen being always kept out) so Art has not been wanting in giving them all the Advantages imaginable. The

The Garden of the *Tuilleries* is much the finer of the two; and tho' it be not near so spacious as *St. James's-Park*; yet its Scituation on the *Seine*, its Prospect of the Neighbouring Fields, its shady Walks, Parterres, Fountains, GreenThenter and Mazes; render it the most delicious place in the World. Hither the Ladies flock to Reap the Fruits of their Morning Labour at their Toilets, and the Men no less vain and Extravagant than the Women, to Display their Feathers and Embroider'd Coats; and whilst both endeavour to Conquer Hearts, they often lose their own. This place is wholly Consecrated to Mirth, Raillery, Cocquetry, Intriguing and Singing. Here's no Melancholy Face to be seen, nor Complaints to be heard, unless it be those of Despairing Lovers.

French-men, *how known.*

I don't find here any difference between the looks of a *French-Man*, and that of other People; however you may know him by these four Circumstances, *viz. When the Clock Strikes; when he asks you a Question; when*

when he promises any thing; and when he talks of his *Intrigues*. For a *French-man* no sooner hears the Clock Strike, but he asks you the Hour; he expects you shall Answer his Question before he has made an end of it; He never performs what he promises, and as for *Intrigues*, he finds more Pleasure in bragging of his *Mistresses Favours* than in Receiving them.

All things are to be bought for Money in *Paris*, except the Art of keeping a Secret; the *French* accounting it the business of a Father Confessor, and not of Gentlemen; therefore if they keep Council, 'tis only about things that are indifferent, or such as were never entrusted to their Secrecy.

CIVILITY.

Civility is more Studied in *France*, than *Chimistry* in *Germany*: The Persons of Quality practise it with Gracefulness; the Citizens and Scholars with Affectation, and the Vulgar with a clumsy awkwardness.

French

French Foppery.

Those who are born in *France*, cannot endure to see the Men here comb their Hair and Perwigs, go with open Breast, walk with their Hats under their Arms, sing and flutter about in the Streets, and publick Places ; or the Women always adjusting their Commodes with Pocket-Looking-Glasses in their hands ; nay, some of them, laying on Red before every Body.

Petits Maitres.

The young Gentlemen, who distinguish themselves by their Dress and Equipage, are call'd *Petits Maitres* ; To give them their due, they are not so foppish, nor so affected as our *English* Beaux ; but then they are ten times more lewd, there being not a few R----'s amongst 'em.

A B B E Z.

Paris swarms with *Abbez* all the Year round, as thick as *Westminster-Hall* with Lawyers and Pettifoggers
in

in Term-time. They go in black, wear a little Band, short Cloak, and fair powder'd Bob, and are the comfort and delight of all distress'd Ladies, with whom they ride in their Coaches, walk in publick, and go to the Play-houses like Lay-men. They bend all their Wits and Study upon Gallantry, which makes their Conversation agreeable and polite, tho' too wanton for Ecclesiasticks. Some of them are Incumbents of rich Abbies; others have their Revenues in *Terrâ incognitâ*.

W O M E N.

French Women are not to be compar'd to our *English*, either for Beauty, Complexion or Shape, but in *Cocquetry* and Chit-chat they go beyond all the rest of their Sex. But tho' the generality of *French* Ladies be ugly and airy, yet there are some accomplish'd Beauties amongst them, that cannot be match'd any where else.

Women are here extream fond of Lap-dogs and Monkeys, and shew them more tenderness than they do their Husbands: They go Abroad

when they please, come home when they please, and if a Gentleman be once acquainted with them, he's welcome to Visit 'em either at their Toilet, or even when they are a Bed.

Tho' *French* Women have a great deal of Liberty, yet they seldom go Mask'd in *Paris*, except in *Carnaval-Time*, when even all Gentlemen go every Night from Ball to Ball in Masquerade, which they call *Courre le Bal*.

The *French* always Marry in Black : The Women have Nosegays pinn'd on their Breasts, as a sign of their Innocence; but then they are crown'd with a Garland of Flowers behind their Head-dress, to shew their domineering Power. For indeed they have the Privilege to Command their Husbands, and to Obey no Body.

As there are few Husbands that are jealous of their Wives, so there are few Wives that don't Cuckold their Husbands; for *Levity* being the distinguishing Character of this Nation, their Love is neither violent nor lasting. Marriages, which in most Countries are for life, are here only

only for a time ; insomuch that in the best regulated Families there are Examples of voluntary and mutual Divorce, after which the Husband lives in one part of the Town, and the Wife in another, as if they were perfect Strangers.

The Trades-men Wives are as good Accomptants as their Husbands ; such as are tolerably handsom, look after their Shops very finely dress'd, and sell at a swinging Rate even those Commodities they never part withall. Therefore if ever you come to *Paris*, have a care of entering the Toy-shops, where you are sure to have your Pocket pick'd with civil Nonsense, and cringing Complaisance.

Extravagance and Luxury.

Extravagance and Luxury, both in Diet and Apparel, are Epidemical Vices in this City, not only among the Nobility, and such as have Estates, both to support and excuse them ; but also among those who have nothing but their daily Labour to depend upon.

The *French* are so fond of new Fashions, that the Taylors are more busie about Inventing than Stitching; and when a Suit of Cloaths outlasts the Age of a Flower, they account it decrepitate and antiquated. From hence spring a world of *Brokers*, a vile and mongrel sort of Shop-keepers, who live plentifully, by stripping some, and cloathing others. However this is no small Convenience for the *French*, who love to make a Figure at a small Expence.

CABARETS.

Here are as many *Cabarets* (or Taverns) and *Rotifferiei* (or Cook shops) as Coffee-Houses in *London*; both which are much inferiour to ours, both in cleanliness and convenience. The *Cabarets* are generally more Nasty than any *English* Ale-house I ever saw; and then they have not the liberty to dress Meat, but must fetch it from the Cooks; therefore most People seldom eat at the *Cabarets*, but Diet at *Ordinaries*. The first time I went into a Cabaret, the Drawer came in singing *Uin Chably, Tonnerre, Champagne, de Grave, Bourgogne, Cabreton,*

breton, Macon, Mulsau, Hermitage, Argenteuil, Nanterre, Gentilly, d'Ivry, Surenne, Sillery, Volonné, Frontignac, Muscat, St. Laurent; he was going on in his Litany, but I began to be weary of hearing so many Wines nam'd, and drinking none, and so stop'd his mouth, and call'd for a Flask of *Champagne*, and another of *Vin de Grave*; the first prov'd very good, but the other not so fine as the *Bourdeaux-Wines* we drink at the *Three Tuns* in *Shandoys-Street*, or at the *Rose* in *Convent-Garden*. Wine is cheap enough here without the City, but as soon as it has enter'd it, it is Sold almost as dear as in *London*. The *Cabaretiers*, or Vintners, stile themselves *Marchands de Vin*.

ORDINARIES.

'Tis extraordinary dear Living in *Paris*, in Comparison of *London*; for a Gentleman cannot Diet at a good Ordinary under Four Livers a Day, nor have a tollerable good Lodging ^{Lodgings.} for less than four *Lewis's d'Or* per Month. The French Cooks are as ^{Eating.} Industrious in Inventing new *Ragoos*, and Kickshaws, as the Taylors in cutting

cutting out new Fashions. Their Fowl is good and well Larded; but their other Meat is generally so adulterated with Sauces, that 'tis impossible to determine whether what one Eats is Beef, Mutton or Veal. Except Legs of Mutton, I have not yet seen a whole Joint of Meat Serv'd up at Table; the Butchers being unacquainted with Surloins and Rumps, and generally cutting their Beef into thin Slices, scarce thicker than a Six-Penny-Stake in *London*.

Beer. They Brew here a sort of good Beer, not quite so strong as our Common Two-Penny Drink in *London*, but clearer than *Nottingham-Ale*.

Here's a Cook-shop in *Ruë St. Honnoré*, where 300 Men are Employ'd in Larding of Fowl, all at a time: The Master keeps a Register of the places where they Live, and of the times when they are to bring in Fowl Larded; he told me, that he sometimes drest Dinners of a Thousand Livers.

Coffee-Houses.

There are but few Coffee-houses in *Paris*, but then they are generally as fine as

as our Chocolate-Houses, and much more Expensive; a Dish of Tea or Coffee, being Sold for *Une petite Piece*, or a *French* Groat; a Dish of Chocolate Ten *Sols*, and their Rats-fia's, and other strong Liquors in proportion. All their Tea, Coffee-Pots, and other Utensils are Silver: There's one Coffee-House near the *Pont-neuf*, where are no less than 34 Marble-Tables: I have seen another with Looking-Glass all about it; but there is not one where there is a Fire, even in the Sharpest Winter Days.

Foire St. Germain.

Here is kept in *February* and *March*, the *Foire St. Germaine*, not Unlike our *Bartholomew-Fair*, only much finer, and more Magnificent. Here are expos'd to Sale, the richest Stuffs for wearing Apparel; and all manner of Household-Furniture; here are also fine Shops, where the best Cool and Strong Liquors are Sold, and large Booths for Tumblers and Rope-Dancers; Among the rest *Allard* and his two Sons, who I have been told, were lately sham'd upon our Nation for Dancers to the King of *France*,
and

and suffer'd to shew their Tricks upon *Covent-Garden* Stage, may here be seen for a *French Groat*. To this Fair, all the Town repairs, rather for Diversion, than with intent to buy. Here is such abundance of fine Ladies, and *Filoux*, or Pick-Pockets, that a Man's Heart and Purse are in continual Danger; the first being wonderfully Alluring, and the others incredibly Dextrous. Formerly the King us'd to Grace this Fair with his Presence, but he has not been seen there of late Years; however the *Dauphin*, *Monsieur* *Madame*, and the rest of the Royal Family, never miss to come there once or twice. The Chief Diversion here is Raffling by Night, when the Lights give a New Lustre to the Ladies Charms, and at the same time Palliate their Defects.

WEATHER.

The *Weather* is here as changeable and Inconstant, as 'tis in *London*; for sometime the morning is either Frosty or Rainy, the Noon fair; afterwards it Hails and Snows, then there arises a great Storm, which is
laid

laid by a Gentle Shower; and last of all, the Clouds break asunder, and the Sun Shines before it Sets. Thus a Warm Evening Succeeds a Cold Morning; the Elements are in continual Jarrs, and the Seasons generally confounded. 'Tis therefore no Wonder that the *French* partake of the Inconstancy and unsettledness of their Climate; nor that the Women wear at once, a Muff in one Hand, and a Fan in the other.

Paris is the Center of Mirth and Pleasure: Here Lovers never break their Hearts with Sighing, neither does Jealousy torment any Body. In *England* Poverty or Love is often the occasion of People's hanging, shooting or drowning themselves; but here you shall see a *French*-man singing and Capering, when he has not a Penny of Money in his Pocket; and when a Wife hears her Husband was kill'd at the Wars, she calls for her *Ratafia*, and there's an end of her Sorrow.

OPERA.

The *French* are so fond of publick Entertainments, that they go to the
Opera

Opera or *Comedy* on *Sundays* and *Holy-days*. The House where *Opera's* are Acted is somewhat bigger than our Theater in *Covent-Garden*, but otherwise dispos'd. Next to the Stage is the *Orchestre*, or Musick-Room; then the *Parterre*, or Pit, where People stand; next to the *Parterre* is the *Amphitheater*, where People sit, and which answers to our Front-Boxes: The *Loges* or Boxes, of which there are three Rows one over another, resemble our Galleries, but that they are but two Places deep.

The Prizes are thus; the *Amphitheater*, a Crown; first Loge half a *Lewis d'or*; second Loge, a Crown; third Loge (otherwise call'd *Paradis*) and *Parterre*, half a Crown. There are also two Side-Loges on the Stages, where few People sit but the Royal Family. The Prizes are a *Lewis d'or* a piece.

The Decorum of the Stage is so well observ'd, the Machines so nicely play'd, the Scenes so quickly shifted, the Acting, Dancing and Symphony so good, the Cloaths so rich, the Stage so well lighted, that tho' the *French* manner of Singing be not very entertaining to an *English* Ear, yet

yet I cannot but prefer the *French* Opera's to any I ever saw in *England*. or *Italy*. Mr. *Thevenard*, whom you have heard sing in *England*, is now the chief Man they have; the principal Women are Mademoiselle *Maupain*, Mademoiselle *Moreau*, and Mademoiselle *Desmatins*: They are, indeed, wonderful Actresses, especially *la Maupain*, who alone is able to fill the whole Stage. Their best Dancers *Dancers.* are *Pecourt*, *L'Etang*, and *Balon*, for fine Entries; and *des Moulins* one for Comical Dances. One Thing that very much contributes to their Nice Performance, as to their Entries, shifting of Scenes, and Dancing, is that no Person stands upon the Stage, nor is admitted behind the Scenes.

C O M E D Y.

The *Comedy*, or the House where they Act Comedies and Tragedies, *Comedy.* is not quite so big as that of the Opera: Here the Stage only is well Lighted with Six Branches of Cristal, just by the Curtain, and three on each side. Besides the *Parterre*, *Amphithenter*, and *Loges*, there are on each

each side the Stage four Rows of Seats for Gentlemen, kept from the Actors by fine Iron-Rails. The Prizes of all the several Places at the Comedy, are just half of those at the Opera. By reason the *French* Poets always observe the Unity of Place, they have here no side Scenes, as at the Opera; and they only make use of a Door in the middle of the Flat Scene, both for their Entries and Exits: Their Actors are very Good, among the rest, *Baron* and *Beaubourg* for Tragedy; and *Poisson*, *Dancourt*, and *la Tourilliere* for Comedy; but they have no Women to be compar'd to *Mrs. Barry*. Their Musick is exceeding bad, and their Dancing but indifferent. The House is finely painted on the Top and Sides.

Both the Opera and Comedy are generally full every day, and their Receipts of a whole Year amount to above a Million of Livers.

MUSICIANS.

Musicians. Since the Death of *Baptiste Lully*, here has not been a Composer of Musick to be compar'd either to our late *Henry Purcel*, or the present Masters we have

have now in *London*, as Mr. *Eccles*, Mr. *Finger*, Mr. *Daniel Purcel*, or Mr. *Clark*. And yet no Nation in the World so fond of Singing, as the *French*, for from the Top Lady, to the lowest Chambermaid, and from the greatest Nobleman to the beggarly Scoundrel, you will hear them sing, both in private Houses, in the Streets, and other publick Places. The *French* have for a long time despis'd all Foreign manner of Singing: but now they begin to relish the *Italian*, and I heard *Signiora Gerardi* sing two *Italian* Songs at the Opera, with great Applause.

The Comedy in *Paris* is extraordinary well manag'd, the Government of the House being in the Hands of the chief Actor, as Comptroller, just as *Lincolns-Inn-Fields* Play-house is Govern'd by Mr. *Betterton*. This chief Actor is a Man of Sense, and good Breeding, and tho' he knows how to judge of a Play, yet he never receives any that has not past the Approbation of the most ingenious Members of *French* Academy. The Company is compos'd of a double Set of Players, one of the first, the other of the second Rate, by which means they

they keep a constant Breed of good Actors, and have all the Parts of their Plays under-studied, so that they often Act the same Play both at Court, and in *Paris*, at the same time.

ARTS and SCIENCES.

Arts and Sciences. All Arts and Sciences are here in a declining condition. They have not a good Poet left, except Monsieur *Boileau*, who is now wholly taken up in Recording the Deeds of the present King. Most of the Comedies that have been written since the Death of the famous *Moliere*, are nothing but loose Chit-chat, and French Grimace, without either Sense or Design: And as for Tragedy, it has also expir'd with *Corneille* and *Racine*, which the living French Poets vainly endeavour to imitate.

Painters. *Poussin* and *LeBrun* two French Painters have justly got a Reputation, because they followed *Raphael's* manner, and did not part with that Decorum, and Genuine Simplicity, which he us'd in History, for a Flutter and burlesking way of Drawing, (no ways approv'd by the Judicious in that

that Art) of which the *French* Masters now living are accus'd.

Here's not a Mathematician to be compar'd to our Mr. *Newton*, or Dr. *Willis*; Monsieur *Ozanam* being little more than a Compiler of other People's Inventions. As for Philosophers, we excel them as much, as Mr. *Lock* surpasses *Mallebranche*.

Their Divinity is made up of trifling Sophistry, and intricate Questions of the Schools; some of their Books of Morals are very good; some full of Enthusiam.

The Physicians here either Cure, or Kill, as they do all the World over. But to give them their due, some of that Faculty are very able and skilful. The Surgeons are very dextrous in all manual Operations.

LITERATURE.

As for Literature, you shall not find a *French* Gentleman that understands *Greek* and *Latin* to such a perfection, as the Honourable *Charles Boyle* Esq; the Upshot of the *French* Learning consisting now-a-days in a smattering of the *Latin* Tongue, and a nice Knowledge of their own; for

the refining of which here's an illustrious Academy.

FRENCH TONGUE.

The *French* Tongue is a fine mixture of *Latin*, *Italian* and *Spanish* agreeable only to those that understand it well, which to us Strangers is no such easie matter: For the *French* don't speak as they write, and then their Pronunciation is so rapid and precipitate, that one would swear they find a pleasure in not being understood. However their Language is Graceful, Harmonious and Polite.

Here are some ingenious Gentlemen that understand *English* in Books, and have a Taste for our Poetry; one of them to whom I lent Dr. *Garth's* *Dispensary*, told me he thought it preferable to the *Latrin*.

The *French* of all the Papists are the least Superstitious: They have no Faith in Conjurers, or Fortune-tellers, wherein they are wiser than some of their Neighbours.

GAMING.

One of the greatest Faults of the *French* Nation is, their extravagant
Passion

Passion for Gaming, which both Men ^{Gaming} and Women gratify, as long as they have any thing to lose. *Lansquenet*, *Picket* and *Ombre* are the Card Games they play most at; *Basset* being forbidden upon severe Penalties, and no where allow'd but at Foreign Ministers's Houses. The only Place where a Man may win a great deal of Money, is at *Monsieur's*, where the least Stake at *Lansquenet*, is four *Lewis's d'or* upon a Card. The French are accounted very *adroit* at Cards, and therefore a Foreigner will do well to know his Men, before he engages in Play; or rather, he'll do much better not to play at all, for even the Ladies do not want Tricks to strip a Bubble. Besides Cards, the French are great Lovers of *Tennis* and *Billiards*, at both which they play with great dexterity.

The PALAIS.

The *Palais* where the Parliament, ^{Palais.} and other Courts of Judicature, meet, is a spacious Building, which makes a kind of City within the City itself. 'Tis the general Rendezvous of Fools and Knaves, Plaintiffs and

Defendants, Oppressors, and such as are Oppress'd. Here *Diogenes*, with his Lanthorn, would scarce find two Friends, or a Man that's pleas'd.

Besides litigious Wretches, the *Palais* is resorted to by a world of People of all Ranks. There are in the Great Hall, (which is nothing near so spacious and lofty as *Westminster's*) abundance of Booksellers, Commode and Toy-shops extraordinary fine, and well stock'd. Only the Booksellers have few other Books in their Shops, but those they print themselves; they not having the way of Subscribing them off, as our *London* Booksellers.

COMMISSAIRES.

Commissaires. There is in every Ward in *Paris* a Magistrate call'd *Commissaire*, something betwixt a Justice of the Peace, and a Constable in *London*; whose Business is to suppress all Riots and Quarrels; take an Account of all Foreigners that come to *Paris*; prevent People's Drinking in Publick Houses on *Sundays*, during Divine Service, &c.

BEG-

B E G G A R S.

Tho' *Paris* be a rich and plentiful City, yet there were lately so many Beggars about the Streets, that a Man could not pull any Money out of his Pocket, but he was presently furrounded by a Crowd of them, who crav'd a Charity with lamentable Orisons. But now there are such effectual means taken to suppress them, that but a few appear in the day-time. However, when you are at home, you are not shelter'd from troublesome Mumpers, for here are a sort of Friars, who have engag'd themselves by Vows to beg Alms from House to House, and to whom most People give, some out of a Principle of Religion, and others to be rid of their cringing sanctified Importunity. One of these Friars came some time ago to my Chamber, and having given him a small Piece of silver, he promis'd to pray for my Conversion, and the salvation of my Soul. He told me there were several *Romish* Priests in *England*, but which were conceal'd. He prais'd King *William* extreamly, and said he was

*Beggars.**Mendicant
Friars.*

the greatest Man in *Europe*. I ask'd him what he thought of his own King? He answer'd: Not so well as of ours; because King *William* both *thought and fought*.

Tho', in general, the *Parisians* be very Devout, yet there are several Churches which are as common Rendezvouses for Men and Women that have a mind to intrigue, as our Theaters, or *St. James's Park* in *London*.

The *French* are extraordinary Civil and Complaisant to Strangers, who resort hither from all Parts, especially from *Germany*, either to learn Manners and Exercises, or to see the Magnificence of the *French Court*. There People of Quality enjoy all the Pleasures that can flatter the Senses, except Smelling; for as all Perfumes are Offensive to the King, every Body Imposes upon himself a Necessity to hate them; and even the Ladies affect to Swoon at the sight at a *Tuberose*.

There are in *Paris* a vast number of fine Churches, the most Remarkable of which are *Nôtre-Dame*, *St. Eustache*, *Val-de-Grace*, *Ste Genevieve*, *St. Gervaise*, the *Carmelites*, the *Sorbon*, &c.

In the Church *Nôtre-Dame*, there is very fine Old Stone Imagery every where made by the *English*, when they were Masters of *France*. Among the rest, the Image of *St. Christopher*, with Christ on his Back, of a vast Bigness. The Altar is Noble and Magnificent, having white Marble Twisted Pillars. Here a Fellow begg'd for something to pray to the Virgin for me, and having given him two *Liards* (or *Farthings*) he fell down on his Knees, and mutter'd two or three *Ave's*. From one of the Towers of *Nôtre-Dame*, I saw all *Paris*, which has not so many Steeples as *London*, but more Domes, viz. The *Invalides*, *Val de Grace*, College of the Four Nations, and *Nôtre-Dame de l'Assomption*.

St. Eustache is remarkable for its Pillars, which are bold and curious Pieces of Architecture; and *St. Gervaise*, for its Facade, which is

very Stately, though of ordinary Stone.

*Val de
Grace.*

Val-de-Grace, is the finest Church of Modern Workmanship, that ever I saw. The Church-yard is enclos'd by Iron-Rails; the Porch is supported by Pillars as large as those at *Pauls*; the *Facade* is very fine, and adorn'd with two Marble Statues on each side, the Floor all Marble, inlaid in divers Figures and Colours, and resembling exactly the Fret-work at Top; the Altar is an Ascent, of about 5 or 6 Steps; round it are Six Serpentine twisted Pillars, very large and high, adorn'd with Gilt Foliage; The Corniches are Gilt likewise; on the Top there is a round of Wheat-Sheaves, from which hang Six Boys in several Postures, with a Scripture Label in their Hands; upon these there are two Arch'd Crowns, all Gilt, and on the Top of all a huge Cross Gilt also. The Altar represents our Saviour Just Born, and the Virgin and *Joseph* looking on him. The little Altar, in a little Oratory is exceeding Rich, with Pillars set in Gold, all of *Saphir*, *Ruby*, and other precious Stones. The Dome has Uniform Windows all round the sides,
the

the Top of it was Painted by *Mignard*, not very Masterly, as I thought; under the *Dome*, there are four jutting Balconies Gilt, answering each other, and over the Door is a Noble Picture of our Saviour taking down from the Cross. There are two great Grates of the height of the Church, answering each other on the sides, and Gilt in several Places; behind one of them are Nuns that Sing, and behind the other some great Persons are Buried.

In the *Sorbon* Church, I saw Cardinal *Richlieu's* Tomb, which is of fine white Marble. He lies leaning on his Elbow, with a Woman looking upon him at his Head, and another Sitting with a Book in her Lap, and laying her Head on his Feet. His Jesuit's Cap lies by him. *Sorbon.*

St. Genevieve's Church is very long, *Genevieve*, was a Baker's Maid who by Cheating her Master, upon Account of Charity, got to be Sainted. She is the Patroness of *Paris*, and is thought to have great Influence over the Weather. Her Relicks are preserv'd in a *Chasse*, or small Coffin, of Gold, supported by Four Marble Pillars. The superstitious Papists *Ste. Genevieve.*

Papists believe, that when *St. Genevieve's* Chasse Descends, one of the Priests that let it down dies certainly that Year; it Works, they say, great Miracles, and for having caus'd Rain, her Church was presented with a fine Picture, with the chief Men of *Paris* Kneeling, and she in a Cloud Wringing her Hands. In this Church I saw some other good Pictures, and several fine Tombs, particularly that of *Descartes*, given by this King; that of Cardinal *Roche-foucault's*, and that of *Clovis*, in the midst of Brass and Marble Pillars. Here also I heard a *Jesuit* Preach, more like a Mad-man than a Minister of the Gospel.

Carmelites. In the *Carmelite*-Church, I saw 9 or 10 very fine large Pictures, that Hang'd on the sides. The Cieling is of Fretwork, and exceeding fine; the Altar very Rich.

RELIGION.

The *Romish* Religion alone, is publicly profess'd in *Paris*, and all over the Kingdom, and the *Protestant* only suffer'd in the Foreign Minister's private Chappels: But tho' the *Gallican* Church be of so great Extent, yet

yet it is divided by several particular Opinions, which make, as it were, so many Schisms. Among the rest the *Jansenists*, who hold St. *Austin's* O-^{*Jansenists.*}pinions about *Grace* and *Freewill*, have, for many Years, been Vigorously oppos'd; nay Barbarously Persecuted by the *Molinists* or *Jesuits*; and of late *Quietism* and the Entusiastick O-^{*Quietism,*}pinions of Mr. *Bourignon*, and of the Arch Bishop of *Cambray*, spread so fast, that nothing less than the Authority of the See of *Rome*, was able to Check the Festering Evil.

Protestants in France.

According to your desire, I enquir'd into the Condition of the *Protestants* of *France*. I was told by Credible Persons, that the Chiefs of Families and Ancient People are left pretty quiet in most Cities and great Towns throughout the Kingdom, but that their Children are every where constrain'd to perform the Duties of good Catholicks; for which purpose there have been several Convents Establish'd of late. Among the rest, one at *Caen* in *Normandy*, call'd *le Convent de la Propagation*, where are
Cloy.

Cloyster'd up no less than Three Hundred Young Women, that were forc'd away from their Parents. In the Province of *Guienne*, the Duke of *la Force* is wonderfully Industrious in persecuting his *Quondam* Brethren, the better to make his Court to the Government; the Advancing the Catholick Faith, and Countenancing Bigottry, being now the best way to Preferment. Therefore 'tis no wonder if petty Magistrates, and the Inferiour Clergy in small Towns, use the Protestants, almost, as severely as the Galley Officers their Slaves of the same Persuasion.

HOSPITALS.

They reckon here about 30 Hospitals, whereof the chief are the *Invalids*; *la Charité*; *Hôtel-dieu*; *les Enfants trouvez*; *les Quinze-vingt*, &c.

Invalides. The *Invalides* is a noble Building, for the Entertainment of disabled Soldiers, like our *Chelsea College*, but much larger and better endow'd.

Charité. At the *Charité* I saw a great Stone taken out of a Priest (after he was dead) which

which weigh'd fifty one Ounces, and abundance of other Stones of all sizes. The Beds are here white, and plac'd on both sides of a long Room, at the upper end of which is an Altar.

At the *Hôtel Dieu* there is a vast *Hotel-Dieu* number of red Beds, plac'd on each side, two foot distant. Abundance of Half-Nuns attend here the Sick for Charity.

Les Enfants Trouvez is an Hospital *Enfans Trouvez* for Bastards: 'Tis pity we have not such an one in *London*, both for the ease of Parishes, and the comfort of those who have not wherewithall to keep their unlawful Off-spring. At this Hospital I was ask'd to stand God-father to a Child newly brought in, but I excus'd my self.

The Hospital of *Quinze-vingts*, where *Quinze-vingts* three hundred Blind Men are entertain'd, is very large, but very ordinary.

PROCESSIONS.

I saw here two Processions: The first was of great Numbers of Big-bellied

bellied Women, which it seems is perform'd every *Thursday*, but is more solemn the first *Thursday* of the Month. The other Procession was on *St. Francis's Day*, for the Redemption of Slaves, in this manner: First they carried a Banner with the Picture of *St. Francis*, and his Order on one side, and on the other *St. Francis* with two Slaves chain'd, and begging at his Feet. Next Four Images in Silver, Representing his several Occupations; His *Chasse* follow'd, carried by Six Sweaty Friars; after the Cannons and Prebends, some whereof had their their Tain born up by Boys drest up like Angels; then several Banners of all *St. Francis's* Miracles, carried by Priests in Surplices, all with green Wreaths, between each Banner, were about Ten Slaves led in Tin Chains by two Boys, richly dress'd with sparkling Crowns on their Heads, and Wings on their Shoulders. They march'd jovially along to the Sound of Trumpets and Kettle Drums; the March was a sort of Minuet.

Bon-Dieu.

When *le Bon-Dieu*, or the Host, is carried about the Streets, the Priests and Mob force every Body to Kneel down; but by the King's Order, Strangers

Strangers are only oblig'd to pull off their Hats. Yet the best way for a Protestant is to avoid the Host, which generally he may do, because they Ring a little Bell, to give every Body Notice of its coming. I was told the *Bon-Dieu* was never carrried thro' the *Ruë de la Comedie*.

My Friend Mr. *Addison* went lately *La Trappe*. to the Convent of *La Trappe*; the Friars receiv'd him very kindly, and Entertain'd him at Dinner with such Edibles as their House afforded. 'Tis there forbid on the Walls, to tell them any thing of what passes in the World. They never Speak to each other.

Journey to St. Dennis.

We went lately to *St. Dennis*, to View the Treasury and other Rarities that are there in the Church. And it being a fair Day, and all the way thither pav'd exceeding even, Mr. R----- and I chose to Walk it. There is such abundance of Hares all about this Country, that they run between Horses Legs, but none dare to Kill them, they being the King's Game. There are Crosses all along
from

from *Paris*, at those places where *St. Dennis* rested his Head, as he went from *Mont-Martyr*, where his Head was cut off, and then dropt at the Place that bears his Name. These Crosses are of several Fashions, but most with a sort of Chappel underneath, supported by Pillars in the middle. *St. Dennis* is not a very large Town. The Church has three Isles, and three Brass Doors, with History in *Basso Relievo* upon them. The Kings of *France* are all Interr'd in the Quoir. *Lewis XIII.* is cover'd with a Pall of Black Velvet, and a Canopy like a Bed, also of Black Velvet, Fring'd with Gold. There's a Branch of Lamps which has burnt for 60 Years. I saw but one Brass-Tomb (of King *Dagobert*, the Founder of the Church) and that not comparable to that of *Henry VII.* in *Westminster*, but keeps very bright. A Cardinal that could not obtain to be Buried among the Kings, would be plac'd upon a fine Marble Pillar to over-look them. *Marshal de Turenne*, has here a very fine Tomb of white Marble. That of *Mary de Medicis*, and her Husband, is also exceeding fine ; but the Chappel, with 5 or 6 little Chappels in it,

is

is only begun. There are vast great white Wax Candles, in huge Brass Candlesticks, upon Marble broad Rails near the Altar. On the Altar are two Rich Crosses of Gold, beset with Diamonds, which wanted Brushing to make them look bright. The *Benedictines*, when they came out after *Vespres*, cross'd themselves with Holy Water, after an odd Ridiculous Manner. We were let up into the Treasury by a Priest. At the Sight of a Piece of the Cross, enclos'd in Chrystal, and enrich'd with Gold and Diamonds, every Body Kneel'd. We were shew'd several other Curiosities in three Presses, as *Bustums* of Saints, in Brass; Fine Cups of several kinds; Crowns of several sorts; Crosses exceeding Rich; and many other Things. On the other side, are *Chasses* of Miracles, and other Rarities, such as *Judas's* Lantern, which he had when he betray'd our Saviour; *Joan of Arques's* Sword, which has a flat flanting Edge, with an odd Handle; several Hands and other Parts of Saints, represented by the same Figure, on the outside of the *Chasses*; Blood of I know not who, Superstitiously preserv'd; St. Dennis's
E Head,

Head, supported by Two Angels, but enclos'd; *Lewis XIV's* Swadling Cloaths, all Emboss'd with *Flower-de-Luces* of Gold, &c. The Painting of the Windows is very fine; and the Organ very good. As we went out of the Church, we were beset by a Multitude of Beggars, whose Number is infinite all over the Kingdom.

Foire St. Laurent.

Being return'd to *Paris*, we Visted the *Foire St. Laurent*, which is very neat and fine. There were Six Ranges of Booths of Boards, Built on purpose, and abundance of Raffling Shops. There I saw an *Italian* Youth, with a Child growing out of his Breast; it had long Black Hair, but an imperfect Face. I was shew'd the Place where it had been Wounded in *Italy*, to try whether the Youth would feel it, but finding it would not, it was Christned distinct.

LOUVRE.

The *Louvre*, or King's Palace in *Paris*, was begun by *Henry IV.* continued by *Lewis XIII.* and so left Unfinish'd. What's already Built is the most Stately Piece of Architecture that ever I saw. There is a Gallery Four Hundred *Toise's* long, (every *Toise* is 6 Foot) where are seen a Hundred Plans of Towns and Cities, plac'd on each side of the Gallery; the Hills, Plains, Rivers, &c. are express'd by Past-Board and Colours, very Natural. Among the rest, I saw there *Calais* and *Dunkirk* exactly done. All the Top of the Gallery is Vaulted, and indifferently well Painted.

I saw in the *Louvre*, the Academy Academy of Painting and Statuary. of Painting and Statuary; in one Room stood two Men Naked in an Odd Posture: There were two Ranges of Artists, the lower for the *Drawers*, and the other for the *Designers in Clay*. I saw the same *Attitudes* Attempted in several Parts by the Artists; there is another Room where the Academy of Painters meet, fill'd with Pictures and Statuary. Among the rest I took Notice of three Originals by *le Brun*;

two of them 50 Foot long, and 20 Foot broad; the third of *Alexander's* Entry into *Babylon*, not quite so long, but as broad. The other fine pieces of *le Brun's* are at *Versailles*. All the Galleries and Chambers in the *Louvre* are Arch'd and fretted (or Carv'd, for I forgot whether.) I observ'd those Parts of the *Louvre* built by several, distinguish'd by Letters enter-lac'd.

The *Royal Academy*, instituted by Cardinal *Richlieu* for the Improvement of the *French Tongue*, has also a Chamber in the *Louvre*, where they generally meet once a Week : All I observ'd in it was a *Pallas*, holding the King's Picture over the Chimney.

KING'S LIBRARY

I saw the King's Library at a House no way answerable to the Dignity of the Collection. The Books and *MSS.* being kept here till such time, as a proper place is prepar'd for 'em in the *Louvre*. This Library consists of two and twenty Rooms, all stor'd with Books finely Bound. There are Rooms for all Faculties, and two for Manuscripts, bound in red *Turkey*.

key. Mr. *Clement*, the Library-Keeper, told me, he was about a Catalogue, which he design'd to print. Mr. *Mauriceau*, the famous Man-midwife, happening to be there, was pleas'd to carry me to his House hard by, where he shew'd me *Fætus's* of several Ages. He has writ two Books in Quarto concerning *Accouchemens*, (or the Delivery of Women with Child) wherein he is very severe on our Dr. *Chamberlain*. He has also writ a little Book of *Aphorisms* on the same subject, dedicated to Mr. *Fagon*, first Physician to the King, who is a little hunch'd-back'd Man.

I saw the *Verrerie* (or Glass-house) where Glasses are grinding 110 Inches long, and 14 broad, they are about an Inch thick at first, and are near six Weeks in finishing. There were about 300 Men employ'd in Grinding, and 200 in Polishing, which is done with *English* red Earth, which they call *Putty*. They Grind with a kind of great Wheel, and a large Plate of Glass, having laid the Glass to be ground in a bed of Plaister and Water, to make it slide. I went from

Gobelins. thence to the *Gobelins*, where they work Tapistry, which at a distance any one would mistake for Painting, only it is more lively. They have two ways of working : The first is, with two Rowlers with Weavers Threads, in the inside of which the Workman sits with the Picture behind him, and scarce sees what he does ; the other way is with two Rowlers flat with the Picture under. There's a great deal of Gold and Silver work'd in two or three Courts. The King of France sent lately Hangings to have *Nudities* cut out, or cover'd, which they were actually doing. The Work-man answer'd, when I reflected on the King's scrupulous Impotence, *That there were four Seasons in the Year.* The Famous *Edelinck* Lives there, and works at present on the Picture of the Prince of *Wales*. A French Gentleman who was with me, wondring I did not extraordinary admire the *Gobelins*, I told him we had one Mr. *Vanderbank* in *England*, who work'd full as well as they, which I could not persuade him to believe.

Bigness of Paris.

That I might guess at the Bigness of *Paris*, I one day had a mind to make the *Tour* of it, which I did
in

in three Hours walking, without straining my self. I observ'd no Gates *Gates.* good, but *St. Denis*, *St. Martin*, and *St. Anthony*; the *Bastile* is very pitiful. I crost the Water at the *Ar-cenal*, which was not worth seeing, as I could perceive.

SAVOYARDS.

Abundance of *Savoyards* come near 200 Leagues to Clean Shoos, Sweep Chimneys, Rub Horses, and Cry Raree-shews about in *Paris*: They go like our *Black-Guard*, without either Shirt, Shoes or Stockings. Their way of Rubbing Horses is with large flat Brushes, fasten'd to their Feet, and they perform this Druggery, Dancing and Singing, *Quan la Cigalo canto*, or some such other Ballad in their Country Gibberish.

VERSAILLES.

It would both bear, and require a Volume to give you a full Description of *Versailles*: Neither is it possible for words to express to the Mind, the Nobleness and Magnificence of this Master-piece of Art,

which nothing but the sight can render credible. Therefore in framing a general Idea of *Versailles*, you may give your Fancy its full scope, without fearing to exceed the Reality; but if you would know some particulars, accept of what I observ'd in a cursory View, when I was last there with my Lord Ambassador. In the way from *Paris* to *Versailles* we had the Prospect of *St. Cloud*, where are fine Water-works, and a vast large Park: The Road is Pav'd exceeding even, as indeed are most Roads in *France*. There's first an Avenue of 2 Rows of Trees of each side: Then you come to the Stables, which answer to the House in two Semicircles: There's a large Court before them; and over the chief Door of each Semicircle, there are Horses in *Basso-Reliëvo*. The Stables are vastly long, and only a Barrier, with a Post at the end between each Horse. There's a great *Parade* betwixt the Stables and the House, and two Courts divided, by Iron Rails. These Rails both before the Stables and House, are like Pikes, Swords, Whips, &c. The Top of the House is all Lead Gilt; the top Windows

Gilt

Guilt also. The Rooms above stairs have all painted Roofs ; but there's scarce any Wood-work tolerably good, except the In-laid Floors, which are truly fine. The *Dauphin's* Closet is In-laid with several Metals, and his Coat of Arms in Wood in the middle. The sides and Cie-lings are all Looking-glass in several Forms. In one Room is *Alexander*, meeting Queen *Sisygambis*, of *le Brun's*, and the Noblest Performance imaginable. The Beds are rich, but not extraordinary high. In every Room there's a Christal Sconce. The long Gallery has an arch Roof like the rest, all painted with Actions of this King : The sides all Looking-glass : The Guard-Chamber is nothing near so well contriv'd as that of the Princess of *Denmark* at *St. James's*. There are great Marble Pillars of several Colours every where ; and Marble Tables, in Silver guilt Frames : The Stair-case is all Marble of several Colours. A 150 *Suisses*, (drest like *Nivclong*, when he Dances the Drunken *Suiss*, at the Royal Theatre) receiv'd my Lord *Manchester*. In the *Dauphin's* Appartment there's a China Clock, another of Diamonds, and abun-

abundance of odd sorts of Cups of divers sorts of Stones. In the *Garden*, are several exceeding fine Statues, and vast great Urns, with *Basso Relievo*-work all round, both of White Marble; great Brass Figures, neatly Cast, all round the Banks of Water. There are several White Marble Dishes, Supported by three Brass Boys; and a Fountain in the Middle, which falls into another *Basson*. On both sides the *Orangerie* are three pair of Stairs, in all 115 Steps on a side. Underneath is a very High Arch'd *Cloyster* all round, for the Trees in Winter, with double Glass-windows very large. The King's Statue is in the Middle with this Inscription.

Pace beat totum, bello qui terruit orbem.

There are two Ranges of Guilt Railes before the Ascent. All the Avenues and Alleys to the Fountains are lin'd with high cut Hedges, and a *Treillis* of Iron. Both the sides of the Garden are shut up with Iron Gates, when the Waters do not play. There's a fine Canal, wherein are several *Cholaupes* curiously Painted and Gilded,

ded, with other Ships, among the rest, two Yatches, presented by K. *James*, but not extraordinary. Here are Swans so Tame, that they follow'd us in the Water, and gave us leave to touch their Heads. There's also a great Brass Figure of a Horse spuing out Water continually; and every where fine White Marble Seats. On the left hand of the Garden is the *Trianon*, which is a Diminutive of *Versailles*, and on the right, the *Menagerie*, where all sorts of Birds are kept. The Chappel belonging to the *Palace*, seem'd to me no ways answerable to the rest of the Building. There are in the Garden about Twenty *Chaises*, with *Canopys* of several Colours, and Silver Fringes, drawn and show'd about by two *Suisses*, who are forbid to take Mony of any body, that is admitted to View the Garden: A Generosity, and Civility unknown to our Gardeners, and House-keepers Servants, at *Kensington*, *Hampton-Court*, *Windsor*, &c.

When my Lord Ambassador acquainted the King of *France*, with the Death of the Duke of *Gloucester*, I heard the King say, *That he was heartily*

tily sorry that any Thing should happen to trouble his Majesty of Great Britain, or the Princess. And when he waited on Monsieur on the same Account, the Captain of the Guard, told him that the King of England was within ; which he having complain'd of, the Captain of the Guard was severely Reprimanded for it.

Jacobites in Paris.

The Place in *Paris* most resorted to by those who have follow'd King *James's* Fortune, is *Gregories's Coffee-house*, over against the Comedy in *Fauxbourg St. Germain*. I was there three or four times on purpose to ingage some of them in Discourse about their Court, but found them extream shy ; wherein they wisely imitate the *French*, who are very cautious in talking of State Affairs. All I could learn there was, that there's still a great misunderstanding between the Lords, *Melfort* and *Middleton*, chiefly about the Ways and Means of Restoring King *James* ; The first advising it may be done by a *French* Power, the other only by the consent of the People of *England*. My Lord *Melfort's*
Advice

Advice seems to prevail, since the Accession of the Duke of *Anjou* to the Crown of *Spain*; for when the Prince of *Wales* Congratulated him upon his Elevation, the Duke told him, *He hop'd to return him the Complement in a short time.*

FONTAINEBLEAU.

I'll give you an Account of my ^{Journey to} Journey to *Fontaineblau*, where I first ^{Fontain-bleau.} saw the whole *French Court*; and by chance, that of the late King *James*. We went thither in a *Coche d' Eau*, (or large Boat) not unlike the *Folly* upon the *Thames*, that had a *Cubaret* in it, and held no less than between two or three Hundred People. Among the rest of the Company there was an *Abbé*, who made us very good sport, being engag'd in Bantering with three Ladies, who reparteed as nimbly, as our *Vizor-Masks* in the *Pit*. The River *Seine* is so shallow, that our Boat run aground several times. I took notice of several Country Houses, (particularly that of the *Dutcheß of Portsmouth*, and *Madam Louvois*) of a great deal of green Iron *Treillage* in Gardens ;
and

and of a great many Inscriptions on Rocks, for above three Miles together.

The King's Palace at *Fountainbleau*, is call'd the *Louvre*. 'Tis Built in the middle of a Forrest, cut into Alleys, and Ridings for Hunting, and has no other Prospect than that of the Neighbouring Rocks and Trees. I was not a little surpriz'd to see People Sell Things about in the Court, as if it had been a Market-place. There are in the Palace two fine Guard-Chambers: The Appartments that formerly were the Queen Mothers, were at this time appointed for King *James*; wherein I saw fine Tapestry, like Painting, mixt with Silver and Gold in several Places. The three Rooms of State are all Gilded and Painted, but have no Chimneys. In one of the Chambers, I saw a Bed with Rails of Marble, and Brasses round it, and the Floor within In-laid with Silver. King *James* and his Queen's Bed-chamber was little, but very Neat, having Rails before the Bed. Hard by it is the Long Gallery call'd of *Ulysses*.

Whilst Queen *Mary* was yet at her Toilet, Madame came in a Hunting Habit

Habit, Lac'd with Gold, and no Train; She had a Hat and Feather under the Arm, and Periwig on her Head, ty'd behind. Next came the Dutches of *Burgundy* in a Hunting Habit likewise, with a long Train, and her Periwig ty'd behind with several knots of Cherry-colour'd Ribbon; She look'd as like our acquaintance *Cl---k*, as any two Faces that ever I saw.

Afterwards came the Dukes of *Burgundy*, *Anjou*, *Berry* and *Chartres*. The Duke of *Burgundy* wears his own Hair, which is Long and Bushy. The Duke of *Anjou* wears also his own Hair, and is a fine Prince. *Madame* Banter'd the Duke of *Berry*, (who is a very sprightly Youth) and told him, *He should Hunt Ladies from one Room to another, instead of Hunting Boars*. The Duke of *Chartres* has short Black Hair a little Curl'd. Then the King of *France* came, and went up to the Window playing with his Cane, and looking on the Soldiers, then drawing up in the Court. When turn'd about, he took Queen *Mary* by the Hand, and went to Chappel; as he pass'd by me, I Bow'd to him, *mal à propos*, for I learnt afterwards, that 'tis here the Custom never to Bow to the

the King. The King wore an Embroider'd Silver Coat Brown, and a White Feather in his Hat. The Prince of *Conti* stood with his Breast against the Door; he is a Man of great Merit, and very much Belov'd. The Dukes of *Berwick* and *Albermale*, perceiving I was an *English* Man, and a Stranger at Court, very civilly took Snuff out of my Box, and as'kd me some trifling Questions, on purpose to keep me in Countenance; There stood with them King *James*, *Madame*, Mr. *M---gue*, Sir *W---M--* and Sir *George Maxwell*. The Duke of *Albermale* whisper'd Sir *George* to be gone, *because he hated Folly*. *Monsieur* is a Middle-siz'd Black Man; the *Dauphin* Short and Thick; the Marshals *Boufflers*, *Villeroy*, and *de Lorge* were there likewise. I saw the King, and the Royal Family sitting thus at Supper: Queen *Jaquette* in the Middle of the Table, which was a Long Oval. On her Right Hand King *James*, on the Left, the King of *France*, next him the Duke of *Burgundy*, *Monsieur*, and the Duke of *Chartres*; next King *James* the *Dauphin*, the Dutchess of *Burgundy*, *Madame*, and the Dutchess of *Bourbon*.
On

On the side of the Table next the Door stood two Carvers, who fill'd the *Soupe*, and call'd to drink. The Marshals, Peers, and great Ladies, sat on Stools behind the Royal Family at Supper, to look on.

The next day I saw the pretended Prince of *Wales*, who is a handsom, sprightly Youth : He performs all his Exercises to perfection, and is one of the best Marks-men in *France*. He delights so much in Shooting, that when he is Abroad he will make shift with any sort of Victuals, and eat on the Grass without Linnen, perhaps on a sheet of white Paper. He bears Fatigue so well, that he tires all his Attendants with Walking. He is not like the late King, but very much resembles the Queen ; the young Princess his Sister is inferiour to him in Beauty. King *James* is very much decay'd, and always seems to force a smile.

I saw the Fountain, said to be first found out by a Dog call'd *Bleau*, from whence this Place was call'd *Fountain-bleau*. I was in the *Gallerie des Cerfs*, where were several odd
F Horns

Horns, with Inscriptions under them, to tell by whom the Beasts were kill'd. Here's an *Etang*, or Pond, longer than the *Canal* in St. James's, Park, with a fine *Cascade*, which plaid all the while we were there.

The Royal Family of FRANCE.

TH^{O'} I have already mention'd something in Relation to the Court of *France*, yet I hope the following account will not be amiss.

The principal Persons who Compose the Royal Family of *France*, are the KING, (of whom I shall give the Character in another place) *Monseigneur*, or the *Dauphin*; the Dukes of *Burgundy*, *Anjou* and *Berry*, the *Dauphin's* Sons; the Dutcheſs of *Burgundy*; *Monsieur*, or the Duke of *Orleans*; *Madame*, or the Dutcheſs of *Orleans*; the Duke *de Chartres*, Son to *Monsieur*; Prince *de Condé*; Prince *Conti*; the Duke *du Maine*, and Count *Thoulouſe*, natural Sons to the King; the Princeſs *Dowager* of *Conti*; the Duke

Duke *de Vendosme*; and Madam *de Maintenon*.

The *Dauphin* is of a Sanguine, The Dauphin. amorous Temper, full-fac'd, middle-siz'd, and pretty Fat. Upon the taking of *Philipsburg*, where he Commanded in Person, he was Sirnam'd *le hardi*, or *the Bold*. His chief Diversion is Wolf-hunting.

The Duke of *Burgundy* has a grave Duke of Burgundy serious Air, and seems naturally most fit to fill the *Spanish* Throne, than his Brother the Duke of *Anjou*. He has a great deal of Sense and Penetration.

The Duke of *Anjou*, now King of *Spain*, is the Handsomest of the *Dauphin's* Sons, and resembles much the Duke of *Bavaria*. Duke of Anjou.

The Duke of *Berry* is the Reverse of his Brother the Duke of *Burgundy*, being a very sprightly witty Prince. Duke of Berry.

The Dutchess of *Burgundy*, Daughter to the Duke of *Savoy*, is a Princess of a middle Stature. Dutchess of Burgundy

Monsieur. *Monsieur*, or the Duke of Orleans, Brother to his Majesty ; is a little Man, very good Humour'd, affable, and of an amorous Temper.

Madame. *Madame*, Monsieur's Wife, is a tall, thick Woman : She has a Physiognomy wonderful happy, and is free and easy of Access, which makes her generally belov'd.

Duke de Chartres. The Duke of *Chartres* is a middle siz'd Man ; he was Married by the King to *Mademoiselle de Nantes*, one of his Natural Daughters by *Madam Montespan*. This Match *Monsieur* at first oppos'd, persisting he would never Consent, that his only Son should Marry a Bastard ; but being one of the best Natur'd Princes in the World, he soon suffer'd himself to be over-perswaded by the King, insomuch that the Contract was Sign'd between them without *Madame's* privity ; who, afterwards coming to know it, rav'd most immoderately, and express'd her Indignation in reflecting Words upon the King's absolute Way of Proceeding.

Prince

Prince *de Condé*, formerly call'd the Duke *d'Anguien*, is Lord Steward of the King's Household; he is a Man of very little Stature, but of a great deal of Wit.

Prince de
Condé.

Prince *Conti*, formerly call'd the Prince of *Roche-sur-yon*, who, four Years ago stood fair for the Crown of *Poland*; is a tall, handsom, proper Man, only a little round-shoulder'd, (as indeed are most of the Men of the House of *Bourbon*) and has a manly martial Air. He is brave, generous, and affable, and is belov'd by every Body.

Prince
Conti.

The Duke *du Maine*, one of the King's Natural Sons by Madam *Montespan*, has a very handsom Face, and makes a good Figure on Horseback, but he halts a little, and is round-shoulder'd. He has a great deal of Wit and Sense, and has Read very much. The King would have Married him to *Mademoiselle de Chartres*, *Monsieur's* Daughter, which *Madame* preventing, another Match was propos'd, and at last concluded, between him and *Mademoiselle de Bourbon*, Daughter to the Prince of *Condé*.

Duke du
Maine.

Count de Tholouse. Count *de Thoulouse*, another of the King's base Sons by Madam *Montespan*, is yet a Batchellor, but tis thought he will be Married to the Prince of *Conti*'s Daughter.

Princess Dowager of Conti. The Princess Dowager of *Conti*, another of the King's Natural Daughters by Madam *Montespan*, has been, and is still, the handsomest Woman in *France*, perhaps in all *Europe*. She was Married to the late Prince of *Conti*, Nephew to the old Prince of *Condé*, and Brother to the present Prince of *Conti*.

The Duke de Vendosme. The Duke *de Vendosme*, the King's base Cousin-German, and Grand-Prior of *France*, is a lusty, burly Man, of good Natural Parts, and polite Learning; all his Life-time he has been a great Lover of the fair Sex, and keeps at present Mademoiselle *Moreau*, one of the Singers at the Opera.

Madam Maintenon. Madam *Maintenon*, the present Favourite to the King, (and generally thought to be privately Married to him) tho' by some maliciously reflected on as meanly Born, is really Descended from the Honourable House of

of D' *Aubigné* in *Poitou*. 'Tis true her Family being reduc'd to a very low Condition by the Persecution of the old Duke of *Epernon*, their Mortal Enemy, she was sent into *America*, whilst yet a young Girl, to one of her Relations, that had a great Plantation there. Some few Years after she return'd to this part of the World, and went to *Paris*, where her great Wit soon brought her acquainted with the most ingenious Persons of that City. Among the rest, *Scarron* was so charm'd with her Conversation, and way of Writing, that he propos'd to Marry her; she having no Fortune readily Consented. Now there being an *Academie de Beaux Esprits* (or Witty-Club) kept at *Scarron's* House, she had an Opportunity of improving her Parts, and gaining the Esteem of most Illustrious Persons in *France*; insomuch that *Scarron* being dead, *Madam Montespan*, the King's Favourite, took her into her House for her Companion. One day *Madam Montespan* being Indisposed, receiv'd a Billet from the King, and desir'd *Madam Scarron* to Answer it, which she did in so polite and ingenious a manner, that the King came

presently after to see Madam *Montespan*, and to thank her for her Billet; which, said he, he valu'd more than any he ever receiv'd. Madam *Montespan* told the King, the Billet, he so much admir'd; was writ by *la Scarron*; which raising in him the Curiosity to see her, she maintain'd by her Conversation, the Esteem she had gain'd by her Letter. From that time Madam *Scarron* grew more and more in favour with the King, and Madam *Montespan* was soon forgotten. The King gave Madam *Scarron* the Title of Marchioness of *Maintenon*, and made her Lady Governess to the Duke *Du Maine*, and the other Illegitimate Children he had by Madam *Montespan*. She also was made Abbess, or Superior of the Religious House of St. Cyr, where young Ladies of decay'd Families are well Educated. The King shews so great a Deference to her great Wisdom, that he never Resolves upon any thing of moment without her Advice and Approbation. She never would have any higher Title than that of Marchioness; but to avoid Ceremonies, she never appears in publick with the Royal Family, and always receives the Visits of the Princesses

Princesses of the Blood in her Bed,
lest she should be oblig'd to give 'em
Arm-Chairs. Her Devotion, Chari-
ty, and affable Temper, contribute
not a little to make her Esteem'd and
Belov'd, even by those that envy her
Greatness.

Journey to DUNKIRK.

IN our return home, designing to
view *Dunkirk*, we went thither
partly by Post, partly in a confounded
Raddled Coach that held 15 People.
On the Road we perceiv'd the great
Poverty of the Country, for we went *The Road.*
thro' some Towns, where we could
not get half a *Lewis d'or* chang'd, so
that the Post-master was forc'd to let
us pay at the next Stage. 'Tis a great
Inconvenience to Travel in *France* up-
on a Fish-day; for 'tis a hard matter
to get any thing to eat but stinking
Fish, or rotten Eggs: However in
one of the Inns where we lay, I
put a Trick upon the Hostess, by
getting Meat dress'd on *Saturday-*
Night, under pretence of eating it for
Break-

Breakfast on Sunday; but having once got it, I fell upon it without any scruple of Conscience. As soon as we arriv'd at *Dunkirk*, there came a Sexton to beg with a silver Badge, and a Holy-water Brush. *Dunkirk* is a large Town, extreamly well Fortified; the Riss-bank on the Sea-side, is a prodigious piece of Work. At *Dunkirk* I took notice of a great Gun twenty two Foot long, and much larger than that at *Dover*, with two Lions at the top; it was Cast in 1598, and brought from *Nants*. I saw there also a Mail 360 Foot long.

The

*The Government of France,
and the present Posture
of Affairs there.*

THus far I have given you an Account of all the remarkable Things I have hitherto seen in *France*; now, in compliance with your Desire, I will send you my Observations on the Constitution of the Government, and present posture of Affairs of that Kingdom.

Monarchy and Arbitrary Power are here wound up to the highest degree: The King's *Will* is a Supream Law, that wants no other *Sanction* but his *Pleasure*, which therefore is always *tack'd* to it; and if his *Edicts* be sent to the Parliament, 'tis not to have their *Consent*, but rather to put 'em in mind of their *Passive Obedience*.

*Monarchy
and Arbitrary Power.*

Three Things Support the King's Authority: The first is, the vast Number of his *Standing Forces*: there being no less than near Two Hundred Thousand Men kept on Foot, even in Times of Peace. Now, as the Soldiery is the principal Prop of Monarchy,

Standing-Army.

archy, the Government is not wanting in distinguishing the Trade of War, by all possible Marks of Honour and Favour, even to that extravagant Degree, that the meanest, I will not say Officer, but Soldier in the Army, accounts himself better, and is generally more esteem'd, than the best *Marchand*, a Word by which they denote all manner of *Traders*.

Civil Officers.

The other Prop of this Absolute Monarchy, is the prodigious Number of Civil Officers, both in all the Courts of Judicature, and the Farms of the Revenues, who have all an immediate Dependance upon the King, as the People has upon them.

Clergy.

The Third and last Support of the King's Arbitrary Government, no less strong and firm than the two former, is the *Clergy*; for by the Prerogative of the *Regale*, the Gift of all the Bishopricks, best Livings, and rich Abbeys belonging to the King, the Ecclesiasticks never fail to make their Court to him, at the Expence of the Liberties of the People under their *Pastoral Care*; I had almost said, *Yoke*.

There being 'in *France* no other Mark of Distinction but the *Sword*, or the *Gown*; all Gentlemen are ambitious

bitious to serve the King, those that have Estates buy either a Place, or a Commission; and those that have nothing but a rusty Sword, and ragged Feather to trust to, chuse rather to sweat under the Load of a Musquet, in order to be preferr'd in the Army, than undergo a tedious Prenticeship, in order to get Riches by Labour and Industry. The Merchants and Farmers of Revenues, as soon as they have got Estates, either send their Sons to the Wars, or get them Employments in the Courts of Justice, and Magistracy, which is the first Basis of their Gentility. This Weakness, is of no small use to the Government; the new Offices the King has created, during the late War, having fill'd his Coffers with vast Sums of Money.

The present King of *France* has all the Advantages both of Body and Mind, that seem requir'd in an absolute Prince: His Person is tall, and well proportion'd; his Port Majestick; his Looks fiercely Noble; and his Eyes quick and piercing. His Education has been such as becomes a great Prince; for instead of trifling his time away upon reading Latin Authors, he

*Character
of the King
France.*

he studied Men and Manners from his Infancy, and was taught the Arts of Government by the wisest Politicians. He soon understood that to raise the Glory and Reputation of a Nation, the best way was to encourage ingenious Men, which accordingly he has done to the highest degree imaginable; and by his daily Conversation with the best Masters and Professors, has got a knowledge of the most useful Parts of all Arts and Sciences. His Judgment is true and solid; his Understanding clear and penetrating; his Memory wonderfully happy. He has a Commanding and engaging way of Speaking, and speaks best and properest of any Man upon all manner of Subjects. When he sits in Council, his Discernment distinguishes him from his Councillors, as much as his Dignity; and his Determinations are never the Result of any Body's Opinion but his own. He loves Praise, but never suffers his Flatterers to get the Ascendant over him; and bestows Favours upon Merit, without distinguishing any Man, by the Name of Favourite; a fond Name, which argues at once both the weakness of a Prince, and the Superiori-

Superiority of the Subject. In the first Years of his Reign he has given Proofs of his Valour, as far as was necessary, to gain the Love of his Soldiers, and the Admiration and Respect of his People. With all these eminent Qualities, his great success in War till the Year 1685, the flourishing Condition of his Dominions, the Drooping State of *Spain*; the Difficulties which *Germany* labour'd under whilst struggling with the *Turks*, and the Accession of a Popish Prince, his Ally, to the *English* Throne, with all these, I say, it must not seem strange, if the King of *France* laid a Scheme, and hugg'd the hopes, of an Universal Monarchy.

Whether it was by a mistaken Reason of State, or thro' the Suggestions of his Father-Confessor, that the *French* King revok'd the Edict of *Nants*, yet 'tis certain that the Persecution of the Protestants was the first false Step he made in his Design of making himself an Universal Monarch; for by that means he not only lost abundance of good Subjects, who manag'd a considerable Trade; but also awaken'd all the Protestant States into a sense of the Danger they were in, if the grow-
ing

ing Power of *France* were not timely check'd.

The unwarrantable Methods which King *James* us'd to Establish Popery, and set up an Arbitrary Government in *England*, having made way for the late happy Revolution; and at the same time the *French* King's declaring War against the Emperor, and endeavouring to restore the Royal Refugee, it was no difficult matter for our great Deliverer to engage both Popish and Protestant Princes in Confederacy against their common Enemy.

After a tedious War dubiously maintain'd, the King of *France*, being exhausted both of Men and Money, thought it convenient to clap up a Peace, and restore to his Neighbours, all the Conquests he had made upon 'em since the Treaty of *Nimeguen*; which he was the more prompted to do, in hopes of getting all again 'by the Death of the King of *Spain*; who at the Conclusion of the Treaty of *Reswick* was in so desperate a Condition, that the *French* Court thought he could not live a Month longer.

That the King of *France* made a Peace in 1697, only to break the Confederacy, and with a Prospect of getting

getting *Spain*, before the beginning of the Year 1698, plainly appears both from his delays in Evacuating the Places, which by the Treaty of *Reswick* were yielded to the *Spaniards* and *Germans*, and from his keeping up all the standing Forces he had during the late War.

But the King of *Spain's* lingering Disease disappointing the *French* King's designs, he was forc'd to Evacuate those Towns in 1698, and to Disband a considerable Number of his Troops.

Being in a manner disarm'd, and unable to annoy his Neighbours by open Force, he had recourse to Cunning and Policy; and indeed

Dolus an Virtus quis in Hoste requirat?

his Cunning and Policy he has shewn in the management of the Teaty of *Partition* in 1700. By which he not only divided the whole Confederacy, and made the Emperor jealous of *England* and *Holland*, but also gain'd a considerable Party in the *Spanish* Nation, who being proud of the Extent of
G their

their Monarchy, could not brook to see it Dismembred. Thus the *Treaty of Partition* gave Birth to the late King of *Spain's* Will, whether voluntary or forc'd, 'tis not my business to examine.

The *French* King's laying aside the *Partition*, and accepting the *Will*, cannot seem strange to any Man who considers, that all good States-men are ever constant to their Ends, tho' complying with particular Exigencies: and the King of *France* being no ordinary Politician, and having still the Universal Monarchy of *Europe* in prospect, he must of course have laid hold on an occasion, which looks so favourable to his Designs.

For by this means he has got the whole Government of *Spain* into his hands; the *Spanish* Governors in *Flanders*, and the *Milaneze*, having *French* Governors over them; the Council of *Spain* acting only by the Directions of the Duke of *Harcourt*; and all *Spanish* Ministers at Foreign Courts being Ordered to do nothing without the Advice of the *French* Ambassadors.

The

The *French King's* sending Count *Tesse*, with an Army, into the State of *Milan*, and Marshal *Boufflers* into *Flanders*, together with his putting *French Garisons* into all the *Spanish Towns*, frontiering upon *Holland*; all this, I say, plainly discovers, that the Duke of *Anjou* is no more, in effect, than his Grand-Father's Vice-Roy. And who knows, but those who Dictated the late King of *Spain's* Will, pitch'd rather upon the Grandson than the Son, because of his Minority? For had the *Dauphin* been made King of *Spain*, 'tis probable a Prince of his Years would have kept the sole Government of his Dominions in his own hands.

The Matter being thus, if speedy and effectual Remedies be not applied, the *French King's* Power and Interest will in few Years grow to such a height, as to enable him to compass his favourite Project of the Universal Monarchy.

For he is a Prince of so much Wisdom and Policy, as to know how to manage the *Spanish* Dominions to the best Advantage; and make them Subservient to his Designs; He will improve the Treasures of the *West-Indies*, raise the *Spaniards* out of their Lethargy, and not suffer their Strength and Substance to be wasted by haughty Idleness. He will in a short time enable his Grand-Son to reunite both *Holland* and *Portugal* to the Crown of *Spain*; He will cut off the *English* from their Trade to *Spain*, the *Levant*, the *East* and *West-Indies*; And having done all this, how easily, he may make himself Master of all the rest of *Christendom*, I leave every one to imagine.

This is like to be the Fate of *Europe*, if the *French* King's ambitious Designs be not timely prevented: But if the *English* and *Dutch* enter immediately upon a War, against *France*, in Conjunction with the Emperor, and the rest of the *German* Princes, it is not possible for *France* to defend both it self, and *Spain* against so many powerful Enemies: which is demonstrated by the following

ing Account of the *French* King's Revenues, wherein, for the most part, I have followed the Accurate Computations of the Judicious Dr. *Davenant*.

Richess of France.

THE general Annual Income of *France*, from Land, Trade and Manufactures in Times of Peace, and before the Persecution, amounted to 1, 100, 000, *French* Livers, or about Eighty Four Millions, Sterling; of which the Clergy and Religious Houses having near the fourth part, (or 22 Millions Sterling,) and the King, (by the Tax call'd *les Tailles*, Revenue of the Clergy. the five great Farms, Casual Revenue, *Eaux et Forêts*, Tenths from the Clergy, Inland and Foreign Posts, Revenue of the King. Free Gifts, &c.) Something above the Ninth, that is, about 9, 600, 000 Pounds Sterling clear from all Charges, 'twill be found that even in Peaceful Times, the Mass of the People of *France*, did not enjoy much above five Parts in eight of the Annual Income of that Country.

The King's Revenue, not answering his vast Expence, the ways made use of by the Ministry of *France*, to raise Money, have been by erecting new Employments, by Augmentation of Salaries in the ancient Offices, and by assigning Pensions upon the *Maison de Ville*, or Chamber of *Paris*; for all which the new Purchaser pays so many Years Purchase to the King. And tho' this has been a ready Means of raising Money among a People so fond of Offices and Titles, yet it has encumbered the Crown Revenue with a heavy Debt. For 'twas computed that the King before the Year 1688 paid upon that Score no less than four Millions Sterling *per Annum*, which reduc'd his Income to 5, 600, 000 Pounds Sterling, a Sum which the Expences occasion'd by the late War, have very much exceeded.

For 'tis believ'd that the Expences of the King's Household, Maintenance of the Princes of the Blood, Charge of the Navy and Land Forces, &c. could amount to no less than 10, 600, 000 Pounds Sterling: The Expences therefore have been five Millions more than the Revenue; for which

which Sum either the Government must have every Year run in Debt, or it must have been Annually rais'd upon the People.

The former Revenue being 9, 600, 000 Pounds Sterling; had this Revenue held up during the War, there had not been occasion to raise above Five Millions Sterling, besides one Million and a half for the Salaries and Gains of the greater Number of Officers employ'd in the Collecting every Branch; so that there was yearly Levied upon the People of *France*, during the late War, 16, 100, 000. Pound Sterling which was near the fifth Penny of 84, 000, 000 Pounds Sterling, Annual Income.

But the interruption of Trade, and Expulsion of the Protestants, having sunk the Annual Income to 77, 000, 000, and the ordinary Crown Revenue to 8, 500, 000 Pounds Sterling *per Annum*; so that the Annual Expences have been Supplied by Augmenting the *Tailles*, a Capitation, new Creation of Employments, increasing Salaries of ancient Offices, and new Pensions on the Chamber of *Paris*.

There being grounds to believe that there has been Levied in Nine years by a Medium 3, 500, 000 Pounds Sterling *per Annum*; in all 31, 500, 000 Pound Sterling by Sale of Offices, Pensions, &c. And suppose the Purchasers from the Crown have paid for all these new Grants about 17 Years Purchase, the 31, 500, 000 Pounds Sterling thus sold for Payment of Salaries and Interest, did then charge the Revenue of the Crown with the new Debt of 1, 900, 000 Pounds Sterling *per Annum*.

It has been said before, the Debt formerly contracted upon the same Account amounted to 4, 000, 000 Pounds Sterling, so that there was probably paid out of the Crown Revenue upon these Accounts in the Year 1697, in all 5, 890, 000 Pounds Sterling.

Peace has probably restor'd the Crown Re- venue to	}	9, 000, 000
From which Deduct for these sorts of Debts	}	5, 890, 000
And there remain'd to the Crown but	}	3, 110, 000

The

The necessary Expenses of the Court, Army and Fleet, in Times of Peace, do not amount to less than } 6,000,000

From whence deduct 3,110,000

The Expence greater than the Income by } 2,890,000

To make up part of which Sum the King of *France* has lower'd the Intérest, which is paid on Account of the Rent-Charges upon the Chamber of *Paris*; Supprest a great number of new Offices, and order'd Corporations to reimburse the Purchasers; both which eases his Revenue of near one Million and half *per Annum*. And as for the rest he keeps up several of the new Impositions, that have been Levied during the late War.

If there be paid still for Salaries and Interest in all 4,500,000 Pounds Sterling, the principal Debt, supposing it to be Contracted by a Medium of 17 Years Purchase, must amount to 76,300,000 Pounds Sterling, which Debt must of necessity put the Revenue of *France* in as bad

a Condition, as that of *Spain*; and as wise and able as the *French* Ministers are, I can assure you, they find themselves extremely puzzled to overcome this Difficulty. For whatever Oeconomy they shall use, there seems Reason to conclude from the general View I have given you of their Affairs, that in less than Nine Years they cannot work off half their gross Debt, which likewise is not to be compass'd but by continuing most of the present Taxes, which are a great Burden on the People, and a clog upon Trade. This perhaps is the only Reason that may incline the King of *France*, to remove all Jealousies from the *Dutch*, and give the Emperor Satisfaction.

'Tis true the King of *France* being Absolute, may lay what Taxes he pleases upon his People: He may once more raise each *Lewis D'or* to Fourteen Livers, and the Silver Coin in proportion, which would bring near Three Millions Sterling into his Coffers: He may Sell Offices and Pensions for Two Millions; and exact a Capitation that will yield Three
Millions

Millions more; but neither of these can be done without exhausting his Subjects Purfes, putting a ftop to all manner of Trade and Manufactures, and clogging his Revenue with a new Debt.

The Notion fome People have, that the King of *France* Commands all the Money in the Kingdom, is partly true, and partly falfe: He may, indeed, squeeze the Purfes of the *Partifans* and Farmers, and force rich Merchants to put great Sumes of Money into the Chamber of *Paris*, as he has lately done; but this cannot yield above fome few Millions of Livers, to answer prefent Occafions; whereas to Support the Government of *France* and *Spain*, he muft Levy a general Capitation, perhaps double the former, which cannot be done without ruining Trade and Manufactures; neither can he raife fo many Men, as he muft of neceffity have occafion for, without deftroying Agriculture; all which are the beft Branches of the general Income of *France*, and confequently of his Revenue.

The

The Court of *France* is so sensible of this, and at the same time the Forces of the united Empire are so formidable, the Wealth of *Holland* so great, the Riches of *England* so vast, their Strength so powerful, and the very Name of King *William* so dreaded, that I don't at all doubt, that if the *English* enter immediately into a Confederacy with the *Germans* and the *Dutch*, but the King of *France* will give the World better Assurances of his Intentions of maintaining the Peace, than his Seizing upon the *Spanish* Towns in *Flanders*, sending Forces into the *Milaneze*, making new Levies of near a Hundred Thousand Horse and Foot, and fitting out his Ships and Gallies. The Fate of all *Europe* now depends on the Grand Council of the *English* Nation, which Heaven grant may unanimously tend to the Welfare of *Christendom* in general, and of *England* in particular.

FINIS.

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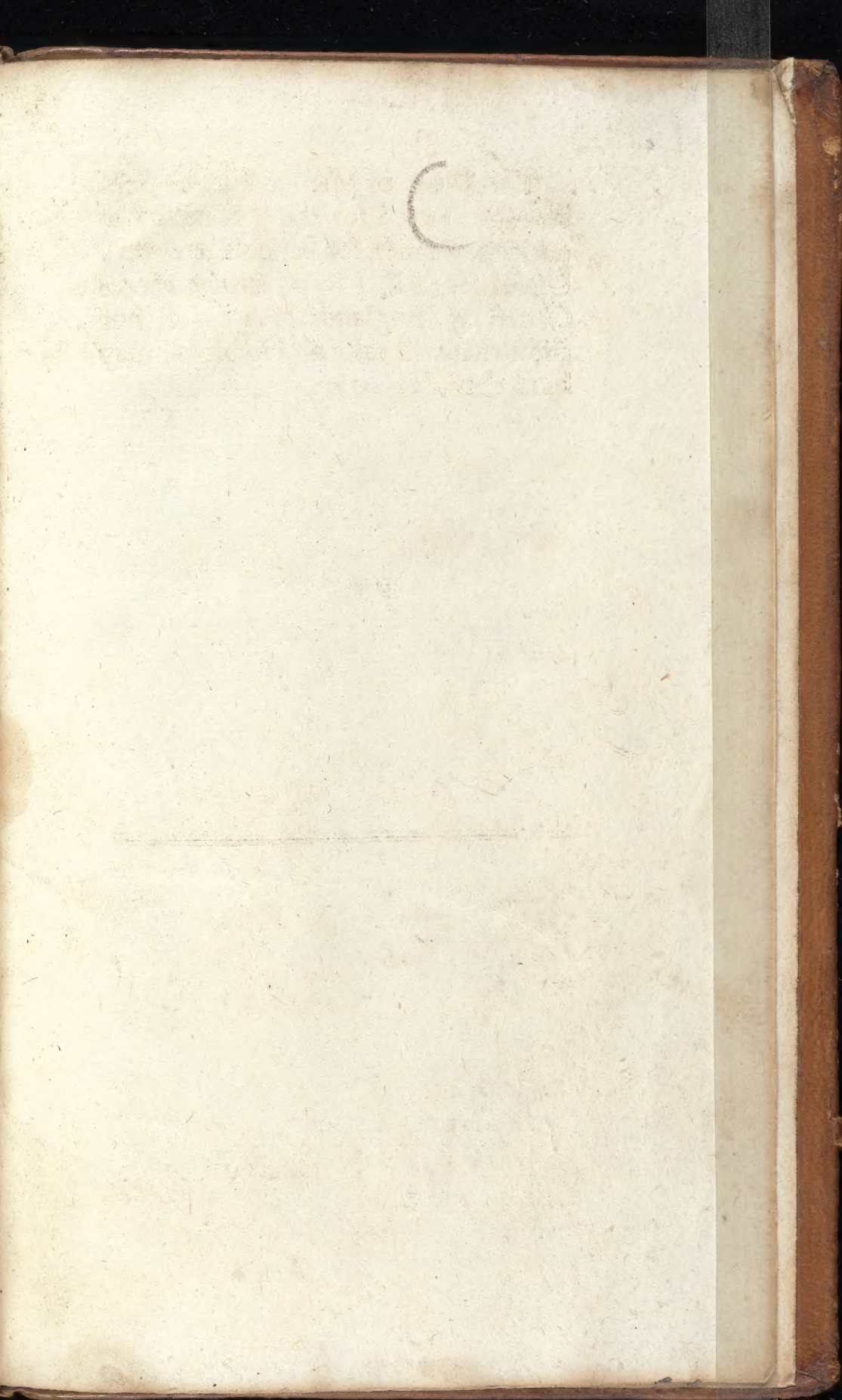
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